

R E V I E W.

Saturday, March 7. 1713.

YOU must allow me one Paper, as a Digression upon your old Friend, *the King of Sweden*; It is but a very little while ago, That, tho' without any Pretensions to Prophecie, I told you in so many Words, and I know some said I spoke too positively, That if that Prince determin'd to bring the Mahometans into Christendom, and invade the Christian Countries with an Army of Infidels, *He should NOT PROSPER*. I conclude these things from the general and ordinary Course of God's Providence in the World; not that the invisible Conduct of Providence is ty'd down to the Justice of every Cause either; we often see a righteous Cause saller, and a wrong Cause exalted; but in a Design so manifestly tending to bringing a Sea of Blood upon Europe, I always believ'd God would hear the Prayers of so many Nations, and deliver them, by disappointing an mischievous Undertaking.

Well now! We are told strange things from *Bender*, (*viz.*) That the Grand Seignior is Deposed, *some* Strangled, and his new Grand Vizier aliv, and e like; nay, and all this by the Management of the Great High Priest, or *Mustii*, &c. Whether it be *High Church* or *Low Church* Turks, that have brought the King killing Doctrine upon the Stage ere again, I know not; but certainly that *Mustii* must be a strange Fellow; you may e'en call him a *S*—— of that Country; because, it seems, as our Reverend Protestant *Mustii* of our side was for re-mitting King *William*; so their Turkish *S*—— here, has De-witted their Sovereign, and his Chief minister; (that is, if the Story be true).

But what's become of the King of *Sweden* now! That is the Question before us.

The Accounts differ so much, and tell so many unlikely Things, that you must not expect I shall credit them all: Nay, indeed, I Credit very little of it, that I tell you before hand, indeed they do not hang together enough to deserve it. That he used the fine Horles the Grand Seignior presented him with, to be shot: That the *Tartar-Han* and he fell out; That the Representations of the *Hospodar* of *Walachia* caused the Grand Seignior to send Orders to Chase him away, and yet, *they say*, at the same time the Grand Seignior is Strangled: These things so inconsistent and unlikely that they deserve no particular Credit.

But leaving all these Notions, as publick Writers please to relate them — I shall state the Circumstances of the King of *Sweden*, as they seem probable from the whole.

First, I will allow, it is not an impracticable Project, nor unlike so Politick Soldierly a Prince, as his *Swedish* Majesty is; That all this may be a Feint, and that he may have put an out-side of this kind so handsomly upon his Affairs, that in all appearance the Turks may seem to be fallen out with them; his Men seem disperst, and a Quarrel appear between the *Cham* of *Tartary* and he, and the like; and all this on purpose to delude the *Muscovites* and *Poles*, that he may Surprize them with the more ease — We had an Example of this kind in the Affair of the Revolution, when King *William*, then Prince of *Orange*, upon his first putting to Sea, was driven back by a violent Storm; an Appearance was made as if he was discouraged by that Event; had given over the Enterprize; that the Horle were order'd to be re-landed, and all was at an end; and we all know how effectually that Trick took here, and what Influence it had upon King *James's* Affairs. But then I must say, That if the Grand Seignior and Vizier are Deposed and Strangled aliv, all the room for the Suggestion of a Feint is taken away; for People seldom carry a Jest that length: For according to *Eu-dibras*,

“ He that Hangs or beats out's Brains,

“ The Devil's in him if he Feigns.

It seems probable, in the next place, That if there has really been such a Revolution in the Affairs of the Turkish Court, as is related, the Faction that opposed the War against *Muscovy* with such Violence, as to Sacrifice their own Emperor for it, were not likely to stop at the King of *Sweden*; and therefore in that Case, if his *Swedish* Majesty is not escaped their Hands by flight, which I must own I think is very improbable; but as some Accounts say, is secured under a Guard; I make no more Question of his having been sent the same way out of the World that the Grand Seignior and Grand Visier have been, than if I had stood by and seen the Tragedy acted.

The Suggestion against this, is, That he has made his Escape, and is gone from *Bender*; Those People who Report this, and that it was done privately, without the Turks leave, know very little of the

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State of Things in the *Turkish* Government, or of the Situation of the Place, the length of the Way, the impossibility of being Concealed in his Flight, the little time that he could have before his going would be known, the swiftness of the methods of Pursuit in those Countries; all which Particulars concur to make it Impracticable that he could Escape; so that if he is fled, it must be by the Connivance of his Friend the *Cham of Tartary*; and if so, the first News we shall hear of his *Swedish* Majesty, will be upon the edge of *Transylvania* and the *Upper Hungary*, and the nearest step he has thither, it at least 360 Miles, and most of it thro' an Enemies Country: It is true, that he may be sooner out of the *Turks* Dominions another way; but then it must be in the Dominions of the *Czar of Muscovy*, his Mortal Enemy.

Another Way his Majesty might take if he durst venture that length, and had faithful Guides; and that is, to the *Danube*, and so crossing the Country of *Slavonia*, or the *Lower Hungaria*, and part of *Croatia*, make into *Dalmatia*, and the Territories of the *Venetian*; but he has above 450 Miles to that Part of the World, and much of it thro' the Dominions of the *Turks*.

Upon the whole, it is my Opinion, If the change of his Affairs be as is related, That either you hear of his being in the Emperor's Country in 2 or 3 Weeks at farthest, or that you never hear more of him.

From his *Swedish* Majesty's Person I descend to the Posture of his Affairs, as they respect the *Swedish* Nation, for I always distinguish'd between the *Swedish* Interest and the King of *Swedenland*. To the last I own I never wished Success, I mean in his *Eastern Projects*, ever since he turn'd his Face the wrong way, in *Saxony*, and March'd to *Muscovy*, when we all hop'd he would, as he might have done, have made himself the most glorious Arbitrer of *Europe's* Peace. But as to the *Swedish* Nation, I must, while I have any Sences, wish them Safety, Glory, Power, and Success; and I look upon the *Swedes* next to the *British* and *Dutch* Nations, to be the Great, and only Support and Refuge of the Protestant Interest in the World, and I always did so.

The *Swedes* were the People, who under their great *Gustavus Adolphus*, and at the expence of his Blood, deliver'd *Germany* from the Tyranny of the House of *Austria*: Had it not been for this Nation, *Europe* had been enslav'd under the Cruelty of *Ferdinand II.* and then it had not been so idle a Thing, as some of you would fain make it, to talk of the Power of the Emperor being Fatal to the Protestant Interest.

Had not that Glorious Prince rescued *Germany* from the Jaws of Popish Power, there had not been a Protestant Prince left in the Empire, nor a Protestant Family suffer'd to remain, without living in the extrem of the Rage of a Persecuting Tyrant. But these things are of no Consideration to the Age we live in.

As the *Swedes* were thus the Safety of the Protestant Religion; and as they possess'd their Dominions in *Germany*, not so much as a Reward for the Expence of that War, as to enable them to be always Powerful Assistants to the Protestants, in Case

of future *Austrian* Encroachments: So I think all Protestants in *Europe* are oblig'd to prevent or being dispossest'd of those Dominions, least they come again when they may want the help of so powerful a Nation to assist them against Popish and *Austrian* Persecution.

This was what I always said from the beginning. That however the King of *Sweden* acted, the *Swedish* Nation ought not to be run down, especially a Nation so Barbarous, and so Threatning, as that the *Muscovites*.

If the Affair of the King of *Sweden*, is, as have is related, the *Swedish* Nation is now at a very low Ebb: Count *Steinbock*, by taking a wrong Step, is reduc'd from a Victorious General, meer Prisoner, and from being Master of the Field to being coop'd up in a Corner, where he has run his Chivalry, been oblig'd to kill all his Horses near 7000; and where he is now preparing ready to hold out a Siege, than to keep the Field; he has with great dexterity, shifted off an Engagement, and avoided being cut in pieces, which might have happen'd, if he had not gotten into *Tonningen*. But in short he is in a miserable Condition.

No Question, the *Swedes* in these Circumstances would gladly listen to the Terms of Peace, and perhaps to leave King *Augustus* on the Throne of *Poland*; and why the Protestant Princes of *Europe* should not concern themselves to bring such a Victory so fatal to the Protestant Interest, to so happy Conclusion, is to me a very great Mystery.

If the King of *Sweden* is lost in this Accident, the Distractions in the Kingdom of *Sweden* must be very great. He is to be succeeded, either by a Woman, or a Child, by a Woman, (*viz.*) the Duke's Dowager of *Holstein*, Sister to the King, who was married to the Duke of *Holstein Gottorp*; and was kill'd in the Battle between the King of *Sweden* and King *Augustus* near *Cracow*; or, by a Child, the present Duke of *Holstein Gottorp*, Son to the Duke, by the King of *Sweden's* Sister aforesaid. It is the same Young Prince, who, the other Day, was sent up to Count *Steinbock*. — Either of them will be but ill able to support the Weight of the *Swedish* Affairs, under their present Embarrassment. If the *Swedes* are oppress'd, who is aggrandiz'd by it but the *Poles* on one hand, a Popish Nation, and *Muscovites* on the other, whose Power no good Man wishes to see greater than it is? — So that on one side you pull down a Protestant Nation, to raise a popish; and on the other, to raise a Scourge for Christian Freedom: Not of Christians, for I will not in them so much to misall them; but of *Muslims* — the Consequence of which our Posterity may live to curse us for.

And after all, if the King of *Sweden* is yet alive, and his Circumstances Good, tho' this may render the Desperate Condition of his Country; yet it most certainly involve *Europe* in a dreadful and ruinous War, which no Man can look upon without great Concern; so that one scarce knows what to wish for.